This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method, comprising:

    sensing rate and shock channel signals;

    aligning the shock channel signals using a feature of the rate channel signals;

    generating a candidate template using the aligned shock channel signals;

    storing the candidate template if a current cardiac rhythm correlates with the candidate template; and

    retaining a previously stored template or not storing the candidate template if the current cardiac rhythm fails to correlate with the candidate template.

2. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the candidate template comprises generating the candidate template responsive to an initiating event.

3. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the candidate template comprises generating the candidate template responsive to mode switching.

4. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the candidate template comprises generating the candidate template responsive to detecting connectivity between a cardiac defibrillator and cardiac leads.

5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the candidate template comprises generating the candidate template responsive to a signal from an external programmer.

6. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising terminating generating the candidate template responsive to a detected event.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the detected event comprises a ventricular tachyarrhythmia event.

8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the candidate template comprises generating the candidate template according to a programmable template update time period.

9. (New) A body implantable system for generating a snapshot representative of one beat of a patient's normal cardiac rhythm, comprising:

a plurality of electrodes electrically coupled to a heart;

a detector system, coupled to the electrodes, the detector system configured to detect rate channel signals and shock channel signals sensed by the electrodes; and

a control system coupled to the detector system, the control system configured to determine fiducial points for the rate channel signals, align the shock channel signals using the fiducial points, generate a candidate template using the aligned shock channel signals, store the candidate template if a current cardiac rhythm correlates with the candidate template, and retain a previously stored template or not store the candidate template if the current cardiac rhythm fails to correlate with the candidate template.

10. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to generate the candidate template according to a programmable update time period.

11. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to generate the candidate template in response to an initiating event.

12. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to generate the candidate template in response to mode switching.

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13. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to generate the candidate template in response to connectivity between the electrodes and the detector system.

14. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to generate the candidate template in response to a signal from an external programmer.

15. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to terminate generation of the candidate template responsive to a detected event.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the detected event comprises a ventricular tachyarrhythmia event.

17. (New) A system, comprising:

a plurality of electrodes electrically coupled to a heart;

a detector system, coupled to the electrodes, the detector system configured to detect rate channel signals and shock channel signals sensed by the electrodes;

means for aligning the shock channel signals using a feature of the rate channel signals;

means for generating a candidate template using the aligned shock channel signals;

means for storing the candidate template if a current cardiac rhythm correlates with the candidate template; and

means for retaining a previously stored template or not storing the candidate template if the current cardiac rhythm fails to correlate with the candidate template.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for generating the candidate template according to a programmable template update time period.

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19. (New) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for generating the candidate template responsive to an initiating event.

20. (New) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for terminating generating the candidate template responsive to a detected event.